



September 15, 2010

Dear Kitchen Cabinet members,

The governor has made her decision and will not call the Legislature into special session to fix the ever-worsening state budget problem. Tomorrow the Economic and Revenue Forecast Council will announce just how bad the shortfall has gotten and how much farther it's

expected to go. The governor will likely announce how deep her across-the-board cuts will be. Early estimates say it could be higher than 7%. I've maintained for some time that she should instead call a special session of the Legislature to address the shortfall, that way lawmakers could set policy which to not only bridge the budget gap but change the laws which got the state into trouble to begin with.

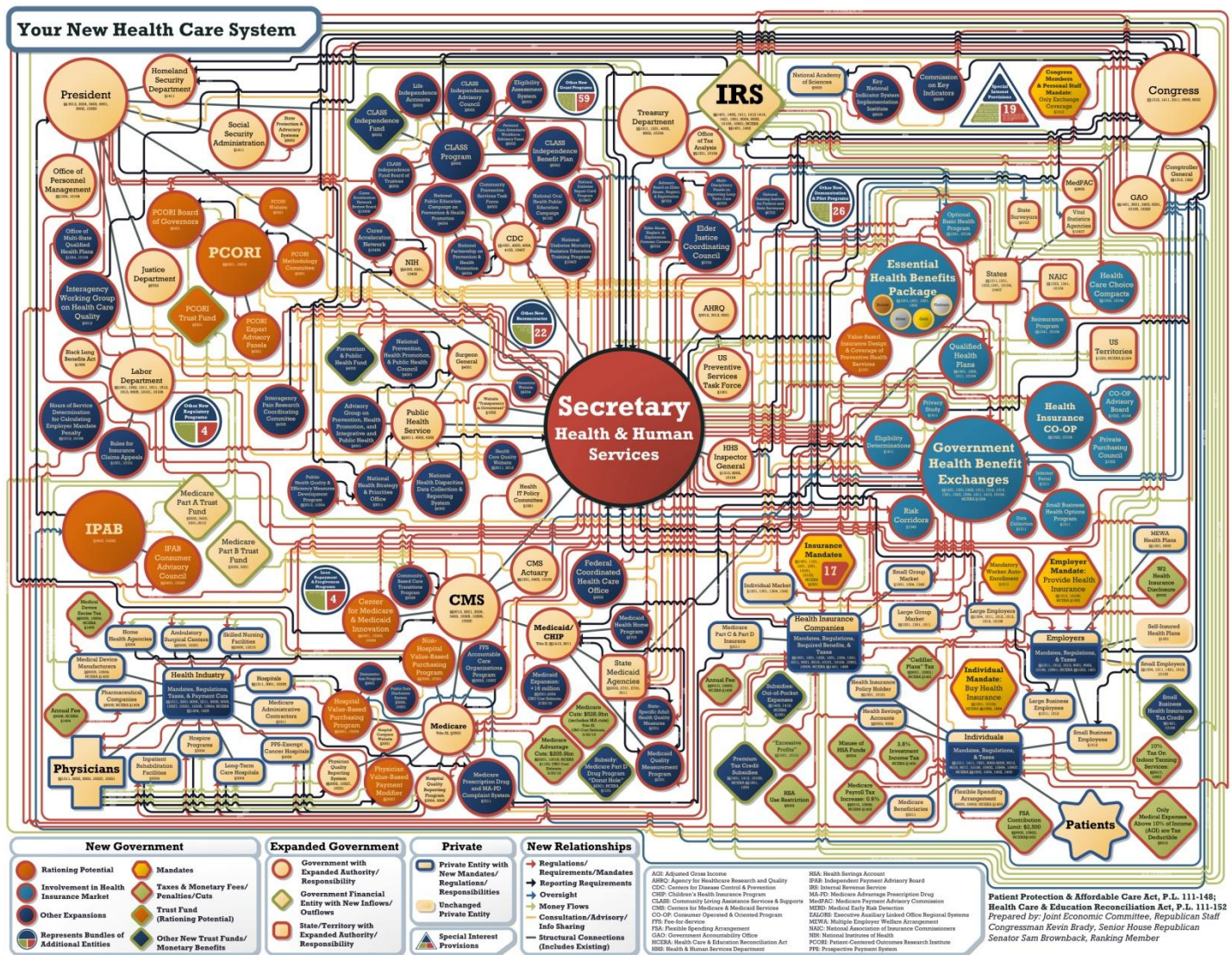
Did a friend forward this e-mail to you? [Click here](#) to sign up for these Kitchen Cabinet e-mail updates.

I've been sending out these updates for over three years now, and the upcoming 2011 session will no doubt be a very important one for our state. **Sign up to receive these updates and keep on top of what's going on in Olympia.**

In the heat of the summer, all of the things that the majority party has based their budget on have dried up and blown away. As a result, we are going to have to reduce the size of state spending – **over and above the governor's cuts** – by 10% or more during the next session because we're looking at a \$3 billion shortfall out of a \$30 billion biennial budget.

Our new government-controlled health care system

I recently asked a doctor friend of mine what he thought about the changes to the health care system in this country. His response was less than encouraging. **Click on the chart below and you'll see how the new relationships in the national health care system are mapped out.**



Notice that the patient is in the lower right corner, the doctor in the lower left corner and the IRS is on the top just to the right of center. Notice also that there are one-way and two-way connections. There is a direct two-way connection between the IRS and the individual for example; however there are no direct connections between individual patients and a doctor.

Camp Murray gate

You may have read the [article in The News Tribune](#) about the controversy brewing between the City of Lakewood (specifically the residents of Tillicum) and the Washington Military Department over the proposed relocation of the main gate to Camp Murray. The intent of the proposed move from the intersection of Berkeley Street and Union Avenue is to reduce congestion at the Interstate 5 interchange. The military says that relocating the gate north will make it more convenient for drivers to use the I-5 interchange at North Thorne Lane, which connects to Portland Avenue, but Lakewood

officials maintain that Tillicum is not prepared for the expected increase in traffic. **You can find a map of the affected area in The News Tribune article.**



A draft environmental assessment for the project claims that the military department's official finding is that the gate would have no significant impact.

That prompted a letter by me to the Washington National Guard which reads as follows:

As the State Senator representing constituents in the 28th Legislative District and residents in the City of Lakewood, I am writing to express my concerns about the relocation of the Camp Murray main gate to the corner of Portland Avenue and Boundary Street, as well as address the related environmental impact assessment.

Gate Relocation Concerns

Adequate consideration has not been given to ensure a long-term solution that will work. We must take a more comprehensive approach in addressing and determining a mutually beneficial solution for not one, but numerous associated problems that will directly affect Lakewood residents.

Furthermore, public comments and involvement are a fundamental part of this process. Dialogue is central to making informed decisions on anything that will have major, costly impacts to a residential community. I have spoken with numerous residents living in Lakewood's Tillicum community who claim they were not informed until late in the process and now face a shortened time period during which they may respond.

This lack of transparency and accessibility of critical information has resulted in a negative perception of the process. Tillicum residents are alarmed and unsettled with the effect that this will have on their community and the lack of time they have to do anything about it.

Environmental Assessment

According to the draft environmental assessment, moving the Camp Murray gate from its current location to the proposed new location would increase traffic volume by 63% percent.

However, traffic is not the only issue on the table. Future impact requires careful consideration and cannot be rushed through.

Relevant issues that must be taken into account include:

- *Impact on the Cross Base Highway;*
- *Lack of impact on the general traffic problem on Interstate 5 and necessity of collaborating with WSDOT to legitimately alleviate, rather than move, traffic to a different location;*
- *Sound Transit trenching the railroad track running through the area in question to address dangers of high-speed rail;*

- *Decreased public safety for residents in Tillicum, as relocation would result in 2,000 additional trips through this residential area;*
- *Cost to the City of Lakewood and to Washington State from re-engineering Portland Avenue if relocation takes place;*
- *Cost to local small businesses;*
- *General cost to local planning and development;*

Spending \$4.7 million dollars to move a gate that may not necessarily need to be moved simply does not make sense, especially as we do not yet know the full impact of relocation. In light of this, I look forward to working to ensure the final decision accommodates the City of Lakewood, the State of Washington, the Washington Military Department and all surrounding communities in the 28th District.

Please find enclosed a recent e-mail that was sent to me from Senator Mary Margaret Haugen, Chair of the Senate Transportation Committee, which outlines plans for this congested corridor.

The [letter from Senator Haugen](#) was sent to select senators representing the South Sound area and outlined future plans for this congested corridor.

I'll be holding a meeting with the governor's office and Maj. Gen. Lowenberg next week to try and determine what is driving Camp Murray and the National Guard to move forward on this project right now. It is my hope that this is not driven by the availability of four million dollars from the federal government. I'll have more to share with you after the meeting next week.

In closing...

If you know someone in our district who might be interested in receiving these updates, please feel free to forward this e-mail to him or her.
You can always find information online by visiting my website at
www.SenateRepublicans.wa.gov/Carrell.

As always, if you'd like to contact me you can write, phone, e-mail, or stop by. My office phone number is (360) 786-7654, and my home phone number is (253) 581-2859. Or you can write me at **102 Irv Newhouse Building, P.O. Box 40428, Olympia, WA 98504-0428.**



- Legislative E-mail address: carrell.mike@leg.wa.gov
- Home E-mail address: mcarrell@hotmail.com

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike". The letters are cursive and fluid, with a small dot above the 'i'.

Mike Carrell

28th District State Senator